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## New Subspecies of *Caprimulgus sericocaudatus* from the Amazon River Basin

by Robert W. Dickerman

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The Silky-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus sericocaudatus* is an exceedingly rare species in North American ornithological collections. It is represented by only six specimens from Misiones Province of Argentina; two from southeastern Brazil (Sao Paulo and Curitiba); and the two specimens, on which the species was described, from the Rivioli (Massena) Collection, labeled only South America. De Schauensee (1970) also included Paraguay (Capitan Meza, alto Parana) in the range of the species, but I have not been able to locate (nor could he provide me with) the reference to this locality. The population of the Amazon basin is represented by a specimen from Santarem, Brazil and one from Yarinacocha in Amazonian Peru.

Recently Dr. Hannalore E. Hinsch made a collection of birds at the Instituto Veterinario de Investigaciones Tropicales y de Alturas 59 km east of Pucallpa, Loreto, Peru, while carrying out a survey for arthropod-borne viruses. The birds were shipped frozen to New York where they were prepared and identified by the author to provide voucher specimens for study. Included was a single specimen of this species.

Upon comparison of this individual with the three specimens available in the American Museum of Natural History, differences were noted and thus the above enumerated material was assembled (except for the two specimens of the type series).

The characters noted proved consistent, and comparisons of representative birds with the type series in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia immediately indicated that the name *sericocaudatus* was not based upon birds from the Amazon basin, and that population awaited description. However, first it was necessary to restrict the type locality of the nominate form. Stone (1899) compiled a list of the types in the Academy and cited the bird upon which the description was based (No. 21,905) as the type and it bears a type label although it was not so designated in the original description. Cory (1919) gave the range as "southeastern Brazil, Bahia, southwards". Mr. R. M. de Schaeunsee (in conversation) informed me that most early collections from southeastern Brazil were exported from Bahia or Rio de Janeiro. The species was not recorded from the state of Bahia by Olivero M de O. Pinto (1935). As first revisor of the species, I suggest restricting the type locality of *Caprimulgus* (*Antrostomus*) *sericocaudatus* (Cassin) 1849 to the vicinity of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that being a probably source of the type

material closest to the range of the species as indicated by presently available specimens.

It should be noted that Cory, and de Schauensee (*loc. cit.*) were in error in citing the publication date for the species as 1848. The original description bears the date 30 October 1849 and was correctly cited by Stone (*loc. cit.*) and Peters (1940).

The population of the Amazon River Basin may now be described as:

*Caprimulgus sericocaudatus mengeli* subsp. nov.

*Diagnosis:* Smaller (see Table) and darker, more sooty, than the nominate form.

TABLE  
Measurements of *Caprimulgus sericocaudatus*

|                       | wing      |         | tail      |         |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                       | males     | females | males     | females |
| <i>sericocaudatus</i> | 177-182   | 167-184 | 144-148   | 136-147 |
|                       | 179.4     | 175.8   | 146.4     | 141.4   |
|                       | (n=5)     | (n=5)   | (n=5)     | (n=5)   |
| <i>mengeli</i>        | 157 & 163 | 156     | 124 & 127 | 116*    |

\* Tail apparently retained from first basic plumage.

*Type:* American Museum of Natural History, no. 811079, adult male, collected by Hannalore E. Hinsch, on 15th November 1972 at Instituto Veterinario de Investigaciones Tropicales y de Alturas, 59 km east of Pucallpa, Loreto Department, Peru. Original field number HEH-A-506.

*Range:* Amazon River basin.

*Material:* Besides the type, a ♂ from Yarinacocha, Peru, and a ♀ from Santarem, Brazil.

*Name:* With great satisfaction I name this form for Dr. Robert M. Mengel, student of Caprimulgids and friend.

*Notes:* De Schauensee (1970) has described the female plumage of the species. The "young" bird mentioned in the original description is in reality another adult male with a slight difference in wing formula. The only female of *mengeli* is the Santarem specimen, which appears to be an immature. Its rectrices are narrower and more rounded and are only diffusely tipped with buff as compared to those of the other available apparently adult females.

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